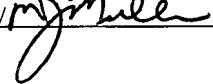




**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) Rudnick et al. Examiner: Isabella, D.J.  
Serial No.: 10/775,536 Group Art Unit: 3738  
Confirmation No.: 6703 Docket: 760-84 CON 4 RCE  
Filed: February 10, 2004 Dated: April 24, 2007  
For: NESTED STENT

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 24, 2007  
Signed: M.J. Mullin/

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The present Amendment is being filed accompanying the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed herewith under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d). Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.